

Foundations of Christian Theology

Week 3: The Church Part 1

What is the Church?

The People of God

Romans 9:6b-8

For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

1 Peter 2:9-12

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

The Body and Bride of Jesus

Ephesians 5:25-32

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,
²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or
any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands
should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no
one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the
church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father
and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This
mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Visible and Invisible

Universal

The Marks of the Church

Life in the Church

Being the People of God

Community

Serving

Mission

The Authority of the Church

Hebrews 13:17

¹⁷ Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Elders (Titus 1:5, 1 Peter 5:1-11, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

Deacons (Acts 6, 1 Timothy 3:8-13)

Discipline (Matthew 18:15-20)

Corporate Worship

Hebrews 10:23-25

²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Liturgy

Singing

Ephesians 5:18-21

¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,
¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Prayer

Preaching

Luke 24:25-27

²⁵ And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.